



ATTACHMENT A

Claims Listing

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Following herewith is a complete listing of all claims including a marked-up version of currently amended claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the concentration of a diluted solution containing a solvent, comprising ~~a distillation step in a distillation column followed by an evaporation step in a falling film evaporator, in which the distillation column and the falling film evaporator constitute two distinct pieces of equipment which are separated by a distributor, and in which the distillation column is assembled on top of the falling film evaporator,~~ said process comprising the following steps:

- (a) feeding the diluted solution at least at one point along the distillation column;
- (b) distilling the diluted solution in the distillation column so as to obtain a low boiling vapor fraction of the solution at the top of the distillation column and a high boiling liquid fraction of the solution at the bottom of the distillation column;
- (c) transferring, through the distributor, the high boiling liquid fraction of the solution from the bottom of the distillation column into the falling film evaporator;
- (d) concentrating the high boiling liquid fraction of the solution in the falling film evaporator by evaporation of at least part of the solvent; and
- (e) collecting the concentrated solution at the bottom of the falling film evaporator;

wherein after step (e), the concentrated solution leaving the falling film evaporator is transferred through a distributor into a cooler where it is cooled, wherein the distillation column and the falling film evaporator constitute two distinct pieces of equipment which are easy to dismantle and to transport, and in which the distillation column is assembled on top of the falling film evaporator.

2-5 (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the distillation is carried out under a maximum pressure of 10 Torr.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, in which the concentrated solution is a concentrated aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution.

10. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 9, in which the concentrated solution leaving the falling film evaporator contains at least 90% w/w hydrogen peroxide.

11. (Withdrawn) Concentrated aqueous hydrogen peroxide solutions obtainable by the process according to claim 10.

12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, in which the axes of the distillation column and the falling film evaporator are aligned.

13. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, in which the distributor has a cross-sectional area at its narrowest point which is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the distillation column.

14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, in which the distillation column and the falling film evaporator are assembled in a way that allows the high boiling liquid fraction to flow from the distillation column to the falling film evaporator through the distributor under the action of gravity alone.

15. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, in which the falling film evaporator consists of a single tube surrounded by a jacket and hot water is circulating in the jacket to heat the tube.

16. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 15, in which the hot water in the jacket and the high boiling liquid fraction in the tube are flowing down concurrently.